**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: L3 Acquisition of Italian

**Researcher**: Eleonora Boglioni

**ERGO number:** 55001

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

I am a PhD seeker in Applied Linguistics, and I am going to carry out this research in order to obtain the said qualification. As former language instructor, I am passionate about language acquisition and investigating interactions among languages. My research is about the acquisition of Italian as a third language of learners who already know English and Spanish, alternatively as first or second language. In order to find out if proficiency in Italian is affected by the interaction with these two other languages, I will ask you to take a test which includes 3 tasks *per language/in your* *language*. So, you will need to take an Oral Production Task, a Form to Meaning Task and an Acceptability Judgement Task in *Italian, Spanish and English*. Through this data collection, I expect to pinpoint the sources of interactions among languages and the characteristics of such interaction. This will contribute to the enhancement of formal linguistic research on third language acquisition, and provide refined tools for language class planning.

I am self-funding my PhD course. However, I have been assigned a dissertation grant by the journal *Language Learning* that provides for funds to support the data collection phase.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

As *a speaker of English and Spanish* *and learner of Italian as a third language* / *a native speaker of*

*Italian/English/Spanish*, your participation in the study will be vital for the completion of this research. This study will include a total of about 90 participants at different proficiency levels in Italian, plus 15 Italian controls and 15 controls for the pilot study.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

For the Italina learners:

By participating in this study, you will be asked to meet with me online on a 3-session based schedule. There will be one session per language, and each session will last up to 50 minutes. This is an estimation as the test is untimed. This means the test will take as much time as you might need, and include breaks. In each session, you will have to complete a battery of tests in the following order: Oral Production Task, Form to Meaning Task and Acceptability Judgement Task.

OR

For the controls:

By participating in this study, you will be asked to meet with me online on a 1-session based schedule. The session will last up to 50 minutes. This is an estimation as the test is untimed. This means the test will take as much time as you might need, and include breaks. In the session, you will have to complete a battery of tests in the following order: Oral Production Task, Form to Meaning Task and Acceptability Judgement Task.

For all the participants:

To carry out the first two tasks, I will share with you a Power Point and you will answer questions about the slides orally. For the Acceptability Task, I will send you a link to the university of Southampton platform iSurvey, There, you will have to rate sentences on a 1-5 scale. We will stay connected for the whole duration of the test so that you can ask me questions at any time.

The meeting will be recorded and securely saved on a university cloud system. The recording is required and essential for data transcription and verification.

After collecting data through these online meetings, my research will continue with data analysis and the thesis writing. I am expected to complete the course by September 2023.

Beside data collection through language tests, the research methods include statistical analysis to be conducted with software. This analysis will produce graphs and numeric summaries, which I will have to elaborate and include in the thesis.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There will be benefits from taking part in this study.

1. You will be paid £10 as compensation for your participation. This is possible through the *Language Learning* grant mentioned above.

2. You will improve your understanding of the three languages involved in the experiment. You can contact me at anytime to ask me for the results of the tests via email by writing to this address: [e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk).

3. By completing this test, you will play a significant role in the advancement of scientific knowledge. This will contribute to the enhancement of both linguistic research and teaching methodology.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There are no risks involved. However, you might feel tired while taking the test. For this reason, you will be given the possibility to take breaks after completing each task.

**What data will be collected?**

In this study I will collect linguistic data, which are your answers in the language tasks. These data will be shared between me and my supervisor. I might also be sharing the data with third parts, such as research databases and journals in case of publication of the study.

Beside linguistic data, I will also collect personal data (your name and contact information). Personal data will not be shared and will be kept on separate coded files.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information I collect about you during the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

The data collected through language testing will be confidential and will be saved on password-protected university clouds. The recordings of the online meetings will be similarly saved on university networks. They will be transcribed and subsequently destroyed in compliance with the university regulations.

Parties being able to access personal data will be myself and my supervisorfor project monitoring.

Linguistic data might be shared on research networks and journals for research purposes.

I may want to retain your contact details for future research. This is because I might want to research other linguistic properties of this same language combination (English, Spanish, Italian). As for the rest of the data, your contact information will be safely stored on password-protected university networks. These details will not be shared, and no person other than myself will be able to access these details.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

If you are happy to take part in the experiment, you are welcome to let me know via email to [e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk).

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

Should you change your mind, you can Withrow at any time of the data collection process. In that case, please write to [e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk). If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

The results of the study will be included and discussed in my PhD thesis, and possibly published on linguistic journals. If you wish to receive a copy of the thesis/publication, please let me know via email. I will be very happy to share it with you. Please note that your personal details will remain strictly confidential and will not be directly identifiable from any report or publication unless you have given specific consent for this.

The data (excluding your personal information*)* will be shared on repositories such as IRIS and the Open Science Framework. This will allow other researchers to access data for farther studies, or to comment on the interpretation of the results of this study so as to improve their understanding. The data will be held as transcripts and survey database.Access to the data will be safeguarded and no commercial use will be possible.

Researcher contact details: [e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk).

Institution contact details: Modern Languages and Linguistics: [ModernLanguages@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ModernLanguages@soton.ac.uk), +44 (0)23 8059 4858. These addresses are to be contacted in case of any complaints.

**Where can I get more information?**

You might want to contact my supervisor, Prof. Roumyana Slabakova: [r.slabakova@soton.ac.uk](mailto:r.slabakova@soton.ac.uk).

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

Contact details of the research team:

Researcher: Eleonora Boglioni, [e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.boglioni@soton.ac.uk)

Supervisor: Prof. Roumyana Slabakova: [r.slabakova@soton.ac.uk](mailto:r.slabakova@soton.ac.uk)

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed. Beside myself, my supervisor Prof. Roumyana Slabakova will be also granted access to the data for project monitoring purposes.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([dataprotection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@soton.ac.uk)).

Personal data (name) will be pseudonymised, which means linking data using a code. The only person being able to access the code as to identify an infidel will be myself.

**Thank you.**

Thanks so much for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research. This is highly appreciated, regardless!